

In the Claims:

Please Cancel Claim 11

Claims 1-31 (cancel).

Claims 32-57 (withdrawn)

58. (Twice Amended) The process of filtering a fluid containing positively charged particles and negatively charged particles to remove said positively charged particles and said negatively charged particles from said fluid which comprises:

filtering said fluid with a filtration unit consisting of one or more filters having a nominal pore diameter between 0.1 and 10 microns and each having a substantially neutral surface having a Zeta Potential between about 0 and -5 millivolts in the fluid to effect a log reduction value (LRV) of at least 3 of particles in said fluid.

59. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 wherein the fluid is an aqueous fluid and the surface is substantially neutral over a preselected pH range.

60. (Canceled)

61. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 wherein the one or more filters have a log reduction value (LRV) of from about 3 to about 20 of particles in the selected fluid.

62. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 wherein the substantially neutral surface is inherent in the nature of the one or more filters.

63. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 wherein the substantially neutral surface is formed by surface modification of the one or more filters.

64. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 wherein the substantially neutral surface of the filter is modified and the surface modification is selected from the group consisting of cross linking and grafting of one or more monomers on surfaces of the one or more filters.

65. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 wherein the substantially neutral surface is formed by surface modification of the filter and the surface modification is by application of an energy source on surfaces of the one or more filters.

66. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 wherein the one or more filters are made from a material selected from the group consisting of cellulose, glass, ceramics and metals.

67. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 wherein the one or more filters are made from a material selected from the group consisting of cellulose, regenerated cellulose and nitrocellulose.

68. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 wherein the one or more filters are made from a metal selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, nickel, chromium and alloys and blends thereof.

69. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 wherein the one or more filters are made from a plastic selected from the group consisting of polyolefins; copolymers or terpolymers of polyolefins; PVDF; PTFE resin; PFA; perfluorinated thermoplastic resins; PVD; nylons; polyamides; polysulphones; polyethersulphones; polarylsulphones; polyphenylsulphones; polyimides; polycarbonates; polyesters; and blends thereof.

70. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 wherein the one or more filters are made from a polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene and the like.

71. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 wherein the one or more filters are made from an ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene.

72. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 utilizing two or more filters in a composite filter each with a different IEP.

73. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 wherein the surface of the one or more filters is treated with one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of acrylate or acrylamide monomers and methacrylate or acrylamide monomers and blends thereof.

74. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 wherein the surface of the one or more filters is treated with acrylic acid.

75. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 wherein the surface of the one or more filters is treated with acrylic acid, a photoinitiator and a cross linker.

76. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 wherein the surface of the one or more filters is treated with acrylic acid, a photoinitiator and a cross linker, wherein the cross linker is N, N'-methylenebisacrylamide.

77. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 wherein the surface of the one or more filters is treated with N, N'-methylenebisacrylamide.

78. (Previously Added) The process of Claim 58 wherein the one or more filters have a log reduction value (LRV) of at least 3 of particles of an average diameter that is smaller than the nominal pore size of the filter in the selected fluid.